

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. [BILL NUMBER]

Fishing outfitters and guides-registration of fishing boats.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; authorizing the Wyoming
2 game and fish commission to regulate commercially guided
3 fishing boats; providing for registration of commercially
4 guided fishing boats, vehicles and trailers operated by
5 outfitters and professional fishing guides; providing
6 definitions; providing rulemaking authority; and providing
7 for an effective date.

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9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-3-206 is created to read:
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1 **23-3-206. Commercially guided fishing boats;**
2 **regulatory authority; definitions.**

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4 (a) To protect the quality of the fishing experience,
5 the fishery and other aquatic resources and species in this
6 state, the commission may set limits on the number of
7 commercially guided fishing boats allowed to launch into
8 any river or lake or section thereof.

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10 (b) In the event that the commission sets limits on
11 the number of commercially guided fishing boats allowed to
12 launch into any river or lake or section thereof, the
13 commission shall promulgate rules governing the
14 registration and means of tracking the number of
15 commercially guided fishing boats launching into any river
16 or lake or section thereof. In addition to requirements
17 under the Administrative Procedure Act, the commission
18 shall hold public meetings in each community in which the
19 rules apply. The rules shall require registration and
20 payment of an annual fee for each commercially guided
21 fishing boat and vehicle or trailer that is operated by an
22 outfitter or professional fishing guide and that is

1 operated during any period of time during a year in any
2 river or lake or section thereof for which the commission
3 has set limits. A registration sticker shall be displayed
4 on each commercially guided fishing boat and on each
5 vehicle or trailer registered under this subsection.

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7 (c) As used in this section:

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9 (i) "Commercially guided fishing boat" means a
10 fishing boat that is operated by an outfitter or
11 professional fishing guide to provide fishing guide
12 services for financial gain;

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14 (ii) "Fishing guide services" means for hire or
15 remuneration, accompanying and providing assistance to a
16 person on a river or lake for the purposes of fishing;

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18 (iii) "Operate" means to navigate or otherwise
19 use a watercraft;

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21 (iv) "Outfitter" or "professional fishing guide"
22 means a person who advertises or holds himself out to the

1 public for hire for the purpose of financial gain to
2 provide fishing guide services, excluding any person who
3 furnishes fishing equipment to a person for exclusively
4 personal and temporary use. "Outfitter" or "professional
5 fishing guide" includes any person requiring the payment of
6 dues or remuneration for providing personal services on a
7 river or lake for the purposes of fishing.

8

9 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2024.

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11 (END)